

Delta Independent Science Board Chair's Report

Summary: This report provides information about the Delta Independent Science Board's inaugural meeting held on September 30 and October 1, 2010.

Delta Independent Science Board – (Delta ISB)

This first meeting was designed to establish the Delta ISB as a working body and orient the members through an overview of key programs and science currently ongoing in the Delta.

- Nominations were made for Richard Norgaard to stand as Chair and Michael Healey to stand as Vice-Chair of the ISB. Both individuals were voted into their respective positions unanimously by the Board.
 - Richard Norgaard, Professor, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley
 - Michael Healey, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
- The meeting was called to order on both days with all members of the ISB present: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, Edward Houde, Judy Meyer, Jeffrey Mount, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh, and John Wiens. The board members were provided with an introduction to the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) by Phil Isenberg and Joe Grindstaff, with Don Nottoli and Randy Fiorini in attendance. The charge to the ISB from the Council was reviewed and accepted, while revisions were suggested for the draft Operating Guidelines.
- Overviews were provided on the Delta Science Program, the Interagency Ecological Program, and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The board held a conference call with the National Research Council (NRC) Associate Director David Policansky to coordinate the activities of the ISB with the NRC Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta.
- The board determined that it would meet again on December 9-10, 2010. The primary agenda item for this meeting will be to address the letters from the California State Assembly and the Senate regarding a request to the Delta ISB to identify and prioritize stressors within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. To help accomplish this task and in preparation for this meeting, the board members plan to: 1) have some members attend the NRC committee public meeting on December 8 where information on stressors will be presented, 2) review the White Papers being prepared for the Council by consultants on ecosystems, water resources/water quality, reduced risk for flood management, and

emergency preparedness, and 3) review a paper being provided by Dr. Anke Mueller-Solger as background information on stressors entitled "Interagency Ecological Program 2010 Pelagic Organism Decline Work Plan and Synthesis of Results Through August 2010," which will be cited as Baxter et al. (2010) when officially released.

- The Delta ISB will begin its search to find a replacement Lead Scientist as quickly as possible. Cliff Dahm had an original term of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010, which has been extended on a part-time basis to go through to June 30, 2011. The goal will be to have a new Lead Scientist by June 1, 2011 to allow for a month of overlap with Cliff Dahm's extended tenure. A draft flier for recruitment was provided at the meeting, and the board determined that the flier should be revised before use. Delta Science Program staff were tasked to assist the ISB with this revision. The board will begin recruitment efforts through direct contacts while waiting for the revised flier.

Contact

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